

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 DPW-01 NEA-10 OMB-01

DRC-01 /176 W

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P R 111823Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3104

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23943

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, VN, MCAP

SUBJECT: GVN DELEGATION PRESS CONFERENCE CONCERNING GVN

NOTE ON POSSIBLE GVN/DRV CONFRONTATION IN THE AIR.

REF: SAIGON 16226

1. ACCORDING TO GVN MINISTER-COUNSELOR PHAM DANG SUM, GVNDL
SPOKESMAN NGUYEN TRIEU DAN CONDUCTED A RATHER SUCCESSFUL
PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS PUBLICIZING GVN NOTE CONCERNING
POSSIBLE DRV VIOLATIONS OF GVN AIR SPACE. SOME 20 JOURNALISTS
ATTENDED INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR WIRE SERVICES
AND FRENCH TELEVISION. (ONLY UPI VERSION HAS BEEN
RECEIVED TO DATE.) THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF DRV CONSTRUCTION
SINCE THE PARIS AGREEMENTS STRUCK THE ATTENTION OF THE
JOURNALISTS, WHO MADE COPIES TO ILLUSTRATE THEIR STORIES.

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2. DAN WAS ASKED WHETHER GVN CONCERN HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED

TO THE DRV, AND DAN SAID HANOI HAD BEEN INFORMED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, BUT DID NOT INDICATE HOW -- NOR THAT DRV HAD REFUSED TO RECEIVE THE NOTE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION DAN ALSO SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE USG.

3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECT ON GVN/PRG BILATERALS, DAN REPLIED THAT SUCH DRV ACTIONS MADE IT CLEARER THAT COMMUNIST SIDE WAS ENGAGED IN STALLING OPERATION IN LA CELLE ST. CLOUD TALKS WHILE BUILDING UP MILITARY POTENTIAL ON THE GROUND IN SVN. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM REMAINED TO GET DRV TO RESPECT THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

4. SUM HELD THAT JOURNALISTS WERE CONVINCED ABOUT THE ACCURACY OF THE GVN ACCUSATIONS, IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF THE CLEAR EVIDENCE IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS. SUM THOUGHT THAT JOURNALISTS APPRECIATED THE GVN CONCERN ABOUT THE THREAT TO GVN SECURITY WHICH THE RECENT DRV CONSTRUCTION REPRESENTED SINCE THIS WAS THEME REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES BY DAN. HE THOUGHT HOWEVER THAT JOURNALISTS WERE NOT CONVINCED THAT THERE WAS A REAL RISK OF ACTUAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH.

GDS.STONE

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NNN

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30 JUN 2005

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